



South Dakota Department of the Military South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs



WELCOME HOME CEREMONY FOR THE 153RD

A welcome home ceremony for about 165 soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 153rd Engineer Battalion and its Forward Support Company is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 30, at 11:30 a.m. (CDT) at the Huron Arena.

The public is encouraged to attend the event as the Huron and Parkston-based units return from a 10-month deployment to the Middle East.

Planned speakers for the ceremony include Gov. Dennis Daugaard and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, SDNG adjutant general.

A community recognition event will also be held for the FSC, Sept. 30, at 4 p.m. (CDT) at the Parkston High School auditorium.

The mission of the 153rd while deployed was to provide command and control of assigned or attached engineer units, while the FSC provided logistics and maintenance support.

The soldiers returned stateside to Fort Bliss, Texas, Sept. 17, where they have been completing demobilization requirements before returning to South Dakota.

This deployment marks the second mobilization for the 153rd which deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004-2005. This was the first deployment for the FSC.



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SD ARMY NATIONAL GUARD DEPLOYS AERIAL MEDICAL EVACUATION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

Family, friends and community supporters gathered at Rapid City's Rushmore Plaza Civic Center for a deployment ceremony for more than 90 soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard's Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, Sept. 27.

The Rapid City-based 1-189th, comprised of pilots, crew chiefs, medics, aviation operations specialists and other support personnel, is deploying to the Middle East where they will provide aerial medical evacuation support with its HH-60M Black Hawk helicopters.

"We're here today to thank you for answering the difficult call to leave the comfort of your homes, to leave the embraces of your families and to serve your country," South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard told the soldiers. He then thanked the family members, employers, coworkers, friends and neighbors that would make sacrifices of their own during the yearlong deployment.

"Several of you who are deploying are serving in other government jurisdictions in one role or another," Rapid City Mayor Steve Allender said during the ceremony. "There are law enforcement officers, firefighters, sheriff deputies, EMTs, paramedics and other types of government employees."

"In response to your commitment to this nation, I would like to say thank you for serving our country," added Allender. "Thank you for serving our state. Thank you for living in and serving our local communities. Also, thank you for reminding us that there are real problems in the world and that volunteers such as yourselves have been tasked with finding and implementing a solution."

The unit will report to Fort Hood, Texas, to complete several months of theater-specific training prior to deploying overseas.

"I want to tell you, that I couldn't be more proud of this unit," Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, SDNG's adjutant general said to the soldiers during the ceremony. "You've executed a rigorous training plan. I know you're ready. We all look forward to being here about a year from now to welcome you home."

Since the 9/11 terrorist attacks, this will be the third mobilization for the unit which deployed to Iraq in support of Operation New Dawn from 2011-2012 and supported peacekeeping operations in Kosovo from 2008-2009.



GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY HELD FOR ALL NATIONS VETERANS' CEMETERY

This week, tribal members, community leaders, veterans and special guests gathered near McLaughlin for the groundbreaking ceremony for "Mitakuye Oyasin" All Nations Veterans' Cemetery.

The site was made possible by a grant from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

SDDVA Secretary Zimmerman was one of the speakers for the groundbreaking.

As a symbol to recognize those sacrifices made by families, Norma White Lightning, wife of Allen White Lightning, a Vietnam Veteran and whose dream it was to establish a Veterans Cemetery on the Standing Rock Reservation; did the honor of breaking the ground that will begin the construction of the All Nations Veterans Cemetery, Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation.



Photos provided by Colette Walking Elk



GO BIG. GO BLUE. GO JACKS.
SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

We are excited to host the Paralyzed Veterans of America (North Central Chapter) fundraiser on Saturday, October 7th as the Jackrabbit Football team hosts the Southern Illinois Salukis. We are inviting all supporters and their family and friends to attend the football game at the Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium and support PVA!

-WHAT: SDSU Jackrabbit Football V. Southern Illinois

-WHERE: Dana J. Dykhouse Stadium

-WHEN: Saturday, October 7 - Game starts at 6:00 pm

-HOW: Follow the online-directions below or call (605) 688-5422 and mention Paralyzed Veterans of America North Central Chapter!

-Deadline: 5 PM on Friday, October 6th

To reserve your tickets on-line:

- Log on to www.jackrabbittickets.com;
- Click on the FB Single Games Tickets button that says BUY NOW;
- Select the game "FB1603 –FB v Southern Illinois";
- Click on "SPECIALS & STUDENTS" tab; and;
- Enter the promo code "**Vets**" on that page.

*This offer is not available the day of the game.

***Each ticket purchased \$10 would go to PVA North Central Chapter (no limit)!**

*Own a business? Reward employees with tickets!

We are very excited for the opportunity to have you out for the game! Any questions regarding Paralyzed Veterans of America North Central Chapter Fundraiser tickets can be directed to the Jackrabbit ticket office at (605) 688-5422.

2820 HPER Center
Brookings, SD 57007

(605) 688-5625
(866) GoJacks
(605) 688-5999 fax

GOJACKS.COM

CODINGTON COUNTY AND SDDVA PARTICIPATE IN WATERTOWN'S VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY

Codington County VSO Al Janzen, SDDVA Field Officer Kevin Swanson and SDJF Coordinator Erin Bultje participated in Watertown's 4th Annual Veterans and First Responders Appreciation Day in Wa-

tertown last Thursday.

Participating partners had a booth and provided information to veterans and their families.



SDDVA AND HUGHES/STANLEY/SULLY COUNTY VSO PARTAKE IN OUTREACH

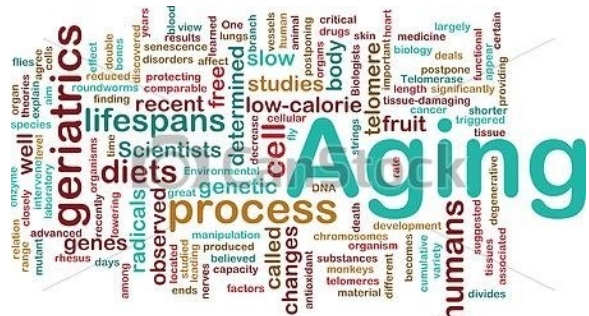
This weekend's Aging Gracefully Expo in Fort Pierre afforded visitors the opportunity to learn more about memory loss, dementia, Alzheimer's, medical care, veterans benefits, fraud and scams. Organizers say the event is not just for elders but something that can be useful to all of us.

Charles Quinn, Hughes/Stanley/Sully County VSO, and SDDVA Field Officer Kevin Swanson were on hand to advise participants on programs and services available to veterans.

Aging happens every day to us so the more

that we know about

the options that are available to us, the more likely we will be able to accomplish our goals.



WARRIORS NEVER GIVE UP

Warriors Never Give Up is a volunteer, non-profit organization offering outdoor adventures for combat, deployed, or service connected disabled veterans.

Their mission is simple—changing the lives of our nation's heroes through various outdoor adventures.

Since its inception, they have served over 300 veterans and their families and have no plans of stopping. Their intention and its outdoor adventures is and always has been to provide a place of relaxation, hope, family, and a break from life's daily struggles.

They take pride in their mission of touching the lives of each and every volunteer or participant. They are dedicated to changing the lives of our nations heroes one outdoor adventure at a time.

To learn more about Warriors Never Give up and their adventures visit:

<https://warriorsnevergiveup.org/events/wngusanford-health-hero-pheasant-hunt-at-north-stream-outfitters/>

UPCOMING HUNTS & EVENTS

- ★ **WNGU/COOPER COTTAGE/YORK HEATING AND COOLING HERO PHEASANT HUNT AT EXTREME PHEASANT OUTFITTERS**
October 28, 2017 | Wessington Springs, SD
- ★ **WNGU/SANFORD HEALTH HERO PHEASANT HUNT AT NORTH STREAM OUTFITTERS**
November 11, 2017 | Fort Pierre, SD
- ★ **WNGU, ROOSTER ROOST AND POWDERHORN RANCH REGULATORS PHEASANT HUNT**
November 14, 2017 | Mitchell, SD



SFVAHCS SCHEDULE FOR FLU SHOTS

It's officially fall; that means that flu season has also arrived. VA enrolled veterans may receive a flu shot during a regular clinic visit while you're at the VA, or at one of the scheduled flu shot clinics at the medical center and CBOCs

Sioux Falls: Flu shot clinic will be located in Primary Care on second floor

- September 29, 8:00 AM-4:00 PM
- October 5, 8:00 AM-3:30 PM
- October 13, 8:00 AM-4:00 PM
- October 18, 9:00 AM-12 PM & 1230 PM-4:00 PM
- October 25, 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
- November 1, 8:00 AM-4:00 PM
- November 15, 8:00 AM-4:00 PM
- November 30, 8:00 AM-4:00 PM
- December 14, 8:00 AM-12N

Aberdeen CBOC:

- October 18, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM
- October 24, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

Spirit Lake CBOC:

- October 18, 12N-3:00 PM
- October 24, 8:30 AM-3:00 PM

Watertown CBOC:

- September 29, 8:30 AM-4:00 PM
- October 13, 8:30 AM-4:00 PM
- October 27, 8:30 AM-4:00 PM

Sioux City CBOC:

- October 11, 8:00 AM-4:30 PM

Wagner Outreach Clinic:

- October 11, 8:30 AM-4:00 PM
- October 18, 8:30 AM-4:00 PM

Veterans can also get their flu shot at a Walgreens drug store. Veterans simply need to present their VA ID card and a photo ID; the Walgreens pharmacist will transmit a note to the VA that flu vaccine was administered.



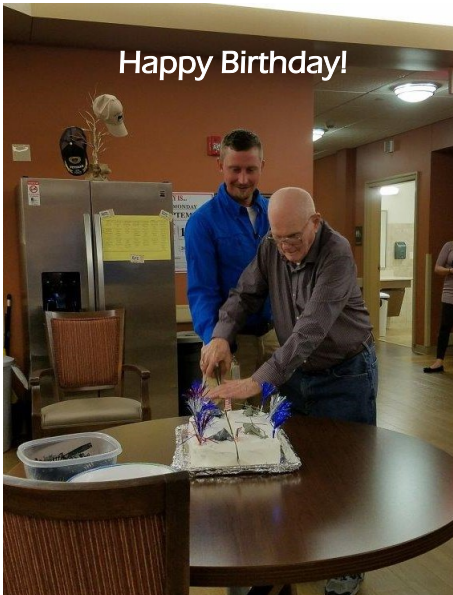
HAPPENINGS AT THE HOME

Residents at the Michael J. Fitzmaurice had some fun playing Trivia.

The residents also celebrated the birthday of the Air Force with cake and ice cream.

Eleven USD Law Students spent time with our residents and answered legal questions.

And if that was not enough excitement, how about life in the fast lanes with some four-wheeling!!!!!!!



PENNINGTON COUNTY PRESENTS US/ROC MUTUAL DEFENSE COMMEMORATIVE BADGES

Pennington County VSO staff Alex Purcell and Jamie Guffey, along with Commissioner Deb Hadcock presented Mr. John LaChette and Mr. Gerald Higgins with their US/ROC Mutual Defense Commemorative badge.

Both were unable to attend the ceremony in Pierre in August. Staff read the certificate "recognizing their support to the Republic of China (Taiwan) in its defense of freedom and democracy, the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan) hereby confers upon you, the United States – Republic of China Mutual Defense Commemorative Badge with appreciation."

Staff then presented LaChette and Higgins with their medal and the certificate that was signed by Jerry S. Chang, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Denver.



GOVERNOR JENSEN STATUE PLACED IN FRONT OF SOLDIERS AND SAILORS WORLD WAR MEMORIAL BUILDING

The statue of Governor Leslie Jensen (15th Governor of South Dakota), was placed in front of the Soldiers and Sailors World War Memorial Building in Pierre today.

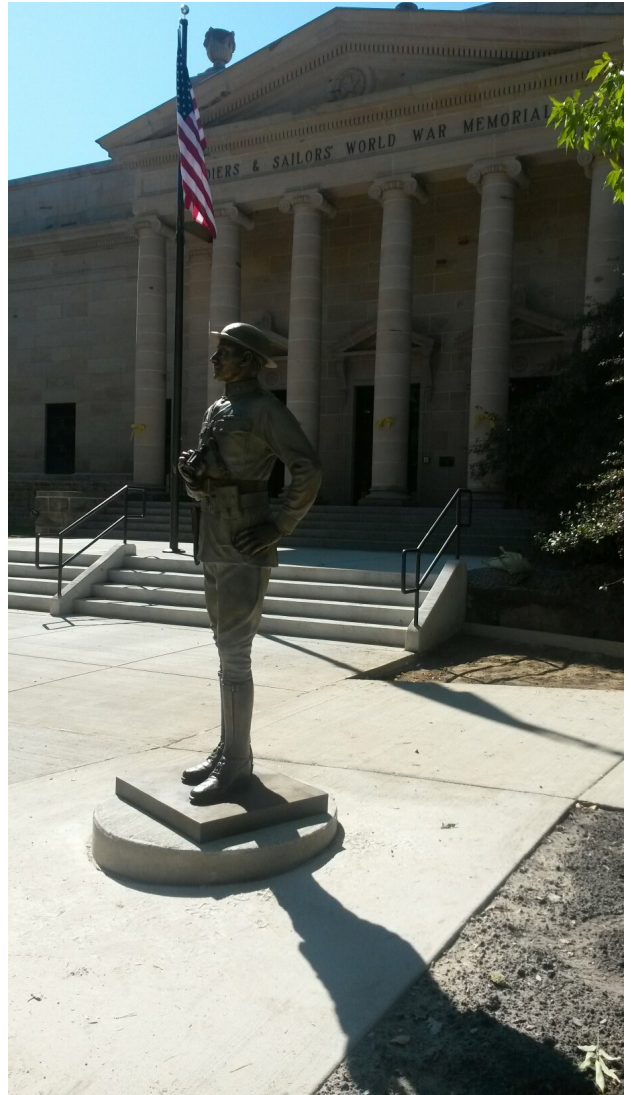
Jensen was born in Hot Springs in 1892. He attended school in Hot Springs and went to Culver Military Academy in Culver, Indiana. He joined the South Dakota National Guard and was deployed to the Texas-Mexico border in 1916 and then to France during World War I. Following the War, Jensen enrolled at the University of South Dakota, where he earned his law degree in 1921.

Jensen served as Governor from 1937-1939.

The Trail of Governors began as a vision to create a lasting legacy of South Dakota's governors. It was the

brainchild of two Pierre businessmen Leroy Foster and Rick Jensen with a love of history, an appreciation of the arts, and a shared sense of pride in their favorite city and state. These dreamers believed their rough concept could be brought to life, or life-size anyway. It would be a trail

of bronze statues honoring each of the state's governors for the enjoyment and enlightenment of those living in and visiting South Dakota and its Capital city. A bit of research convinced them there was not another trail honoring an entire state's governors in this way anywhere in the country, making their idea unique.



★★★ SERGEANT COLTON LEVI DERR ★★★ **FOUNDATION**

Gallantly Forward 2017 Gala

SAT

OCT
21ST



Tickets
\$35

*Buy for veterans if
you can't attend!*



RUSHMORE
PLAZA CIVIC
CENTER

LACROIX
HALL



*Doors at
5 pm*

**SOCIAL ★ DINNER ★ LIVE MUSIC ★ SILENT & LIVE AUCTION
GUEST SPEAKERS ★ BATTLE BUDDY AWARD**

SGT Derr battled with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
following his combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We honor Colton by helping his fellow veterans.

The battle does not end when the war is over.

*Get your ticket TO
SUPPORT our heroes*



*Call OR Go Online 605.545.2505
SERGEANTDERRFOUNDATION.ORG*





Saturday, September 30, 2017

8:00 am to 2:00 pm

Mitchell Corn Palace

KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL DISPLAY

Come and view a bit of US Veteran History

Display Sponsored By:

Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 7, Mitchell, SD

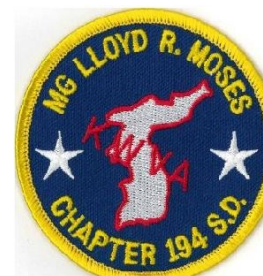
SDDAV22 – Korean War Display, L.L.C.

Korean War Veterans Association, Chapter 194, East River

Mitchell Corn Palace

Call 605-690-5041 for more information

FREE and Open to the Public!!!



Upcoming Events

Sept 29—Women Veterans Conference—Central Baptist Church—Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CST)
Sept 30—Korean War Memorial Display—Mitchell Corn Palace—8:00 am—2:00 pm (CST)
Oct 3—SD Veterans Commission Meeting—MJF State Veterans Home—Hot Springs - 8:00 am (MST)
Oct 5—Aberdeen Area Healthy Aging Resource Fair—Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Aberdeen (1620 NE Milwaukee Avenue) - 12:30—4:00 pm (CST)
Oct 6-8—Fall VFW Conference—Oacoma—Cedar Shores
Oct 7—Homecomings for VFW State Commander Williamson and VFW State Auxiliary President Alm—Cedar Shores—Oacoma—6:00 pm (CT)
Oct 7—SDSU to host PVA at Jack Rabbit football game—Dana Dykhouse Stadium—6:00 pm
Oct 21—Derr Foundation Gala—Rushmore Plaza Civic Center—Rapid City—5:00 pm (MT)
Nov 4—Public Agent Orange Forum—Meade County Court House in Sturgis (2nd Floor Commissioners Chambers—1300 Sherman Street) 9:00 am and 1:00 pm (MT)
Nov 8—SD Veterans Council Meeting—PVA Headquarters in Sioux Falls—10:00 am (CT)
Nov 9-13—VFW Disabled Veterans Hunt—Gettysburg
Nov 11—SDSU Military Appreciation Day—Kickoff at 2:00 pm (CT)
Nov 11—American Heroes Outdoors Veterans Day Banquet—Aberdeen Elks Lodge 1046—5:00 pm (CST)
Nov 11-12—Sea of Goodwill Equine Experience Retreat—Joy Ranch—Watertown
Dec 2-3—Yellow Ribbon for the 153rd EN—Mitchell
Dec 5—Governor's Budget Address—1:00 pm (CT)

2018

Jan 9—Governor's State of the State Address—1:00 pm (CT)
Jan 28-29—VFW Legislative Conference—Ft. Pierre
Feb 16-18 American Legion Mid Winter Conference—Oacoma
Jun 7-10—American Legion State Convention—Spearfish
Jun 14-17—VFW State Convention—Sioux Falls

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